

Governor's Proposed FY23 Budget Adjustments
Appropriations Hearing
HB 5037 AAC the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30th, 2023
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Thursday, February 24th, 2022
Denise Young

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representative Dathan, Representative Nolan, Senator Miner, Representative France, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Denise Young and I am testifying in regard to HB 5037, in support of an increase of the budget for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

One of the biggest reasons I am a member of Bridge House (in Bridgeport) is because of social isolation. My children are now grown up and living on their own. My other family members tend to work a lot. I get lonely when by myself which can lead to negative thoughts.

So I go to Bridge House to volunteer and I to work in the Business Unit. I do a number of chores at Bridge House including helping in the Food Bank. Although I don't depend on the food pantry, I like to help others to receive food. I especially think that if I needed this service how great of an impact it would make my life. I think it is important to keep programs like Bridge House open, because when I go home I feel gratitude in the work I did during the day.

Please consider increasing funding for adult mental health programs like Bridge House. There are so many like me who depend on it. Thank you.